

BOOK REVIEWS



Once again, we have received a number of interesting publications we think you should know about. One is a recent book from the Army's Center of Military History:

PORTRAIT OF AN ARMY. General Gordon R. Sullivan, Editor; Mary Lou Gjernes, Art Editor. First Printing. Center of Military History, 1991. CMH Pub 70-20. 179 Pages. The Center of Military History, despite the many obstacles that have been placed in its way during the years by Congress or by a lack of command emphasis, has managed to acquire more than 10,000 pieces of art that depict images from almost every conflict in which the Army has participated, plus a number devoted to training activities in the U.S. or abroad.

This well-organized and well-designed book lets the artwork tell the story, with only a minimum of narration. The selections are grouped into three general categories—combat, combat support, and combat service support—although there is some cross-over. Brief biographical sketches of the artists, where they are known, are in an appendix.

Throughout, the focus is on the Army's soldiers. Because this book marks the first time a significant portion of the Army's art collection has been used to show how the Army sees itself, we highly recommend it to both the military and the civilian reader.

We also have four recent publications from the Command and General Staff College's Combat Studies Institute:

STAFF OPERATIONS: THE X CORPS IN KOREA, DECEMBER 1950. By Richard W. Stewart. A CSI Special Study, July 1991. 76 Pages, Softbound. The author concentrates on the X Corps staff's experiences in planning and overseeing the complex operations that led to the corps' withdrawal from North Korea in late December 1950. Although the author finds serious fault with the staff's operations in late November and early December, he finds considerable merit in its work during the evacuation.

JEDBURGH TEAM OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE 12th ARMY GROUP, AUGUST 1944. By S.J. Lewis. A CSI Special Study, October 1991. 83

Pages, Softbound. The author dissects the operations of 11 Jedburgh teams—each made up of three specially trained volunteers—that were dropped into northern France in August 1944. He is concerned with their results and has arranged his treatment chronologically by the date of each team's insertion. Although he concludes that "the operations of these eleven teams... were only marginally successful," he does believe "their major contributions were indirect and defy quantification: their psychological effect upon occupied France and the German occupation force and their role in providing intelligence data."

DESERT WARFARE: GERMAN EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II. By Major General Alfred Toppe, et. al. A CSI Special Study, August 1991. 103 Pages, Softbound. This is an excerpt (reformatted and edited) from the original two-volume study that first appeared in 1952 as Manuscript P-129 in the Foreign Studies Series of the Historical Division, United States Army Europe, now found in the National Archives. The Institute believes this study requires "the serious consideration of those responsible for preparing the U.S. military for any future conflict in desert terrain."

THE DIRECTED TELESCOPE: A TRADITIONAL ELEMENT OF EFFECTIVE COMMAND. By Gary B. Griffin. A CSI Report, first published in 1985. This edition published in July 1991. 45 Pages, Softbound. The author uses the term "directed telescope"—originated by Martin Van Creveld—to refer to the use of "aides, liaison officers, observers, and other representatives" by commanders during campaigns and battles. It is a basic, bare-bones historical study prepared under the restrictions presented by a broad mandate and a limited amount of time and library resources. It is valuable in that it tackles a subject of considerable importance but one that seldom finds its way into print.

Two reference books are particularly worthy of mention:

JANE'S ARMOUR AND ARTILLERY, 1991-92. 12th Edition. Edited by Christopher F. Foss. Jane's,

1991. 803 Pages. \$210.00. This edition of the now-standard work on the world's armored vehicles and artillery pieces (including coastal artillery guns and missiles) has been somewhat modified from the previous ones. Certain sections that formerly appeared—ammunition details, turrets and cupolas, and the like—can now be found in *Jane's Armoured Fighting Vehicle Retrofit Systems*, a new series.

This particular volume, in two major sections—Armor and Artillery, and Armor and Artillery in Service—has more than 400 new photographs and 50 new entries, while many of the existing entries have been rewritten or expanded to include new developments. This particularly applies to a number of East European systems, as more and more information about them has become available.

An addendum, correct as of 1 September 1991, includes information on several new systems that were disclosed after the main sections of the volume had been completed.

Be sure to read the editor's foreword. He brings out a number of important points regarding Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM and offers some warnings for the future.

HOW TO NAVIGATE OVER LAND. Two Volumes. By Noel J. Hotchkiss. Stocker and Yale, 133 Brimbal Avenue, Beverly, MA 01915. 1991. These two volumes are in three-ring binders, apparently for ease in making page changes in the future. The author is an experienced land navigation trainer and researcher who has worked extensively for the Army Research Institute at Fort Benning under contract to produce this "how-to" reference guide on cross-country movement. Unfortunately, budget cuts prevented the project from being completed at Fort Benning, and another agency—the present publisher, who has supplied compasses to the Army for more than 40 years—has produced it in final form.

The first volume, for the beginner, presents an overview of the subject and the fundamentals of land navigation. The second volume, for the advanced navigator, includes such subjects as terrain analysis, map interpretation, and mounted navigation.

This is an informative book that will appeal to the specialist, though possibly not to the general reader. Although the division of the book into geographic chapters is quite artificial (which the author acknowledges), the organization of the material and the way it is presented make it easily readable. The book's major flaw is the redundancy that reflects the lack of a thorough editorial review.

INCURSION: FROM AMERICA'S CHOKEHOLD ON THE NVA LIFELINES TO THE SACKING OF THE CAMBODIAN SANCTUARIES. By J.D. Coleman. St. Martin's Press, 1991. 294 Pages. \$19.95. Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

J.D. Coleman served as an information officer with the 1st Air Cavalry Division from April 1969 to April 1970. This volume is the story of the division's operations during this period. (Actually, it begins with fall 1968 and continues through the completion of the Cambodian incursion in June 1970.)

As unit histories go, this is an engaging one full of intimate detail with rousing stories of courage, honor, and achievement, along with personal insights. Coleman's strong convictions about political figures, Vietnam policy, strategy, the news media, and other subjects are clear. The book is a lively, readable account that deals with combat during an important period that has been somewhat neglected in the literature of the war.

Unfortunately, good narrative is not necessarily good history. The book smacks heavily of some of its acknowledged primary sources—the inspirational, public relations newspapers and quarterlies that poured out of the unit information offices during the war. These publications, hard enough to take seriously then, are weak sources for truly coming to grips with the war. Serious historians may therefore be somewhat wary of this volume, but it is still a good book.

THE CUTTING EDGE: MILITARY HISTORY OF ANTIQUITY AND EARLY FEUDAL TIMES. By Paul E. Gavaghan. Peter Lang, 1990. 502 Pages. \$72.95. Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

This is a very refreshing book because of its scope, covering as it does much of antiquity, and also because Gavaghan attempts and, for the most part, succeeds in synthesizing information about subjects ranging

from the basis of Alexander's success to the role of cavalry throughout the period. His style is imminently readable, yet he has done his homework, as the extensive bibliography indicates.

Many chapters intrigue with their titles but do not disappoint with their content. "Arthur and the British Resistance," for example, examines the King Arthur legends and sources in an attempt to find their basis. The author concludes that Arthur may have been a leader of Sarmatian heavy cavalrymen, descendants of those who had been transplanted to Britain by Marcus Aurelius as prisoners of war. Keeping an open mind, however, he offers at least three other well-reasoned possibilities for the military basis of the Arthurian legend.

"Well-reasoned" is, in fact, an excellent summary of many parts of this book, since Gavaghan is willing to examine the available data and make reasonable assumptions on the basis of that data. Most readers will disagree with some of his conclusions but will nod their heads at others and think "That makes a lot of sense."

This work is informative, fun to read, and an excellent goad to thought. For people who are not particularly interested in ancient military history, this is excellent one-volume overview that hits on essential issues of both grand strategy and tactics. For those who are ancient military history buffs or scholars it will sometimes cause exclamations of "Outrageous," but more often, "I wish I'd thought of that." I recommend it highly, even though I find its price extremely excessive.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

LET US HAVE PEACE: ULYSSES S. GRANT AND THE POLITICS OF WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION, 1861-1868. By Brooks D. Simpson. University of North Carolina Press, 1991. 339 Pages. \$34.95.

THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS CAMPAIGN: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. By Eugene L. Rasor. *Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders*, Number 6. Greenwood Press, 1991. 216 Pages. \$45.00.

THE GATLING GUN: 19th CENTURY MACHINEGUN TO 21st CENTURY VULCAN. By Joseph Berk. Paladin Press, 1991. 136 Pages. \$29.95.

FORGOTTEN LEGIONS: OBSCURE COMBAT FORMATIONS OF THE WAF-FEN-SS. By Antonio J. Munoz. Paladin Press, 1991. 424 Pages. \$59.95.

FROM SHIELD TO STORM: HIGH-TECH WEAPONS, MILITARY STRATEGY, AND COALITION WARFARE IN THE PERSIAN GULF. By James F. Dunnigan and Austin Bay. William Morrow and Company, 1992. 512 Pages. \$20.00.

THE GREAT INDIAN MUTINY: COLIN CAMPBELL AND THE CAMPAIGN AT LUCKNOW. By Bruce Watson. Praeger Publishers, 1991. 160 Pages. \$35.00.

CAMPFOLLOWING: A HISTORY OF THE MILITARY WIFE. By Betty Sowers Alt and Bonnie Domrose Stone. Praeger Publishers, 1991. 184 Pages. \$13.95.

FLYING TIGERS: CLAIRE CHENNAULT AND THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP. By Daniel Ford. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991. 450 Pages. \$24.95.

PATTON'S THIRD ARMY AT WAR. By George Fort. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1991. 192 Pages. \$27.95.

THE GREATEST TUMULT: THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR, 1936-1949. By E.R. Hooton. Brassey's (UK), 1991. 216 Pages. \$19.95.

BRUTE FORCE: ALLIED STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. By John Ellis. Viking, 1990. 643 Pages. \$29.95.

THE ANATOMY OF ERROR. By Barry S. Strauss and Josiah Ober. St. Martin's Press, 1990. 272 Pages. \$18.95.

ULTIMATE WEAPONRY. By Paddy Griffith. St. Martin's Press, 1991. 224 Pages. \$29.95.

THE COMING WAR WITH JAPAN. By George Friedman and Meredith LeBard. St. Martin's Press, 1991. 429 Pages. \$24.95.

THE GREAT CRUSADE: A NEW COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. By H.P. Willmott. The Free Press, 1990. 500 Pages. \$24.95.

A QUICK AND DIRTY GUIDE TO WAR. First Quill Edition. By James F. Dunnigan and Austin Bay. William Morrow and Company, 1991. 639 Pages. \$15.00, Softbound.

SHOOTING BLANKS: WAR MAKING THAT DOESN'T WORK. By James F. Dunnigan and Albert A. Nofi. William Morrow and Company, 1991. 513 Pages. \$25.00.

THE BITTER YEARS: MACARTHUR AND SUTHERLAND. By Paul P. Rogers. * Praeger Publishers, 1990. 376 Pages. \$49.95.

ARMY DICTIONARY AND DESK REFERENCE. By Captain Tim Zurick, USAR. Stackpole Books, 1992. 224 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

BATTLEFIELDS OF THE CIVIL WAR. By Roger W. Hicks and Frances E. Schultz. Salem House Publishers, 1989. 240 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

IKE THE SOLDIER: AS THEY KNEW HIM. By Merle Miller. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1988. 859 Pages. \$13.95, Softbound.

